

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Mr. YOUNG of Ohio. Mr. President, for more than 10 years certain congressional committees have vigorously concentrated their fire on internal communism. Ignored in recent years has been the development of fascism in America in the form of a secretive organization known as the John Birch Society. This fascist group numbers in its ranks former officials of the National Association of Manufacturers, retired military leaders and a wide assortment of out-and-out crackpots. Its leader, a former candy manufacturer from Massachusetts, has written his equivalent to Hitler's "Mein Kampf," in which he ridicules democracy. He charges that former President Eisenhower is a Communist sympathizer, and he maligns many other highly respected American leaders.

Its every action and policy is contrary to the traditions of our Republic. From promoter Welch right down the line into every cell, the rightwing active members—termed by the St. Louis Post Dispatch "Birchseaps"—not only pass out disturbing comments and false charges against neighbors, against leaders in parent-teacher association groups, and even against members of the clergy and against loyal, elected and appointed government, State and local, officials. But the principles they advocate, if adopted, would turn back the clock 80 years; would repeal and rescind the 20th century.

Mr. President, Robert Welch, self-appointed vigilante, head of the John Birch Society, is keeping inviolate some personal secrets. He will not disclose publicly how many members there are in his organization. He will not disclose the names of his members. He will not inform the public of the number of cells in the John Birch Society.

Above everything else, he will not disclose the names of those silly persons who paid \$1.00 to be life members of the John Birch Society.

It goes without saying that this self-appointed "vigilante" refuses to give any accounting for the money he receives in life membership dues.

He has fixed his intake at \$24 per year for men who become members. For women, he has a cut rate of \$12 per year.

Mr. President, Robert Welch, retired lawyer and former publisher of Belmont, recently addressed an audience of 100, each one of whom paid a fee. Though his demonstration lasted 90 minutes, he was paid. The technique of the members of the John Birch Society, which is of course to lure from their leadership those persons who disagree with the Communist Party, is to lure these brave souls into a situation not

We in America face an appalling threat of Communist aggression but that threat comes from Red China with its population of 650 million and from the Soviet Union with a population of more than 200 million. Members of the Birch Society claim to see Communists under neighbor's beds. Their dictator Welch, who is a self-appointed vigilante, playing God with other people's patriotism, declaims he is anti-Communist. He alleges that there are 7,000 ministers of the Gospel in the United States who are Communists or Communist sympathizers. He could not name 70 nor even 7. He is guilty of uttering demagogic, untruthful, and wildly fantastic charges.

Mr. President, Dictator Franco of Spain, is also anti-Communist. Hitler and Mussolini were anti-Communists up to the time they met violent deaths. Does anticommunism alone qualify a man as a loyal American? What can serious-minded Americans really think of this man Welch who made money as a lawyer and as a candy manufacturer and now is making much more money as a promoter and denunciator? This fellow has termed former Presidents Eisenhower and Truman as "Communist sympathizers." He denounced the late John Foster Dulles and his brother, Allen Dulles, who is presently Director of our Central Intelligence Agency as pro-Communist and Communist. He is urging the impeachment of the Chief Justice of the United States, Earl Warren, who is a thoroughly great and loyal American and who was vice presidential candidate of the Republican Party. What can Americans think of a fellow such as this, other than that he has a wicked tongue and is a crackpot or an unscrupulous, mercenary demagog and slick promoter?

Mr. President, the facts are that we who are rank and file Americans can well consider Welch and those active in his John Birch Society as being subversive of the worst kind. While pretending to be loyal Americans, they are in reality fomenting suspicion against their neighbors, in the churches, and in the universities.

When Robert Welch states the impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren is "just one of our specific objectives," he is seeking to undermine the confidence of people in a loyal and dedicated American leader while at the same time pretending that he himself is a loyal American.

Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy is correct in his statement that the John Birch Society "is ridiculous" and that its members "make no contribution to the fight against communism here in the United States, and in fact—if anything, they are a hindrance." The California State Senate factfinding committee on Un-American activities has announced that it has started an inquiry into the John Birch Society. Personally my view is that as not one of the members of this society, nor its leader, Welch, has committed any overt act of force and violence against constituted authority in this country, I feel there is no occasion for any congressional or legislative investigation of this secret society. Welch

has the same right all Americans should have—to enjoy the freedom of speech.

In 1854 and 1856, members of the Know Nothing Party elected candidates to office and their candidate for President of the United States in 1856, Millard Fillmore, received many thousands of votes. They claimed that the Pope was coming to America to establish the Vatican somewhere along the Mississippi River. They denounced immigration laws and members of the Catholic Church; they termed themselves a native American party. Like a wave of hysteria, the movement spread through many States from the 1840's to 1856. Then after 1856, the "know nothing" movement died and nothing further was heard of it. Know-nothingism of 100 years ago died the same death that the John Birch Society will die of—unwept, unhonored, and unsung. Leaders of the John Birch Society are busy denouncing the whole foreign-aid program of President Eisenhower and the foreign-aid program being carried forward by this administration.

Misguided citizens who become members of the John Birch Society, even briefly, are making the battle against communism more difficult for governmental agencies such as the FBI. J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI, has denounced activities of the sort practiced by the John Birch Society. Many persons who have become members are really men and women of good will and their motives are of the best. They have been duped by a slick promoter of a secret society whose methods are unreasonable and whose statements are fantastically false.

Mr. President, like the "know nothings" of more than 100 years ago and the "55 every Friday" movement of recent years, this will come and go. However, the strength and power of our Republic and the American way of life will grow and grow.